

editor's page

A sage once said, "The man who is afraid of asking is ashamed of learning." This issue is dedicated to the Extension worker who cares enough about his product—the education of his clientele—to ask questions about his Extension programs. The purpose of this double issue is to help the Extension professional develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to understand and use the process of evaluation.

Mark Twain suggested, "Habit is habit and not to be flung out the window by any man but coaxed downstairs a step at a time." I believe many Extension workers have made a habit of not *formally* evaluating their Extension programs. Informal evaluation becomes the rule. As Extension professionals go about the business of trying to develop and implement Extension programs to meet the needs of their clientele, they frequently skip the evaluation process because of time commitments elsewhere. In skipping the process of evaluation, Extension workers often have some doubts about the success of their program. Moliere tells us, "Doubts are more cruel than the worst of truth." This might be an excellent motto for evaluation. We all must acquire a new habit of evaluating programs to remove those cruel doubts.

The authors in this special issue have spent many hours preparing their articles to provide you, the reader, with a background in how to evaluate Extension programs. No . . . the articles aren't recipes for evaluation. My hope and the authors' is that you will use these articles as a background and basis for developing the methodology to evaluate your programs. I believe the authors have done an exceptional job. We're proud to present this special issue on Evaluating Extension Programs.

PJB